

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1 -2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billick et al. (U.S. 6,772,357) and further in view of Dornier (U.S. 5,646,535). Claims 3, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Billick et al. and Dornier and further in view of Owhadi et al. (U.S. 6,625,742 B1). Claims 5, 6, and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawings

It is noted that the Examiner has accepted the drawings as originally filed with this application.

New Claims

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claims 1-8 and has added new claims 9-11 to this application.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 5, 6, and 8 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant's new claim 9 comprises a combination of original claims 1, 3, 4 and 5, thus redrafting claim 5 in independent form. New claim 10, which is commensurate in scope with original claim 6, depends from new claim 9. Applicant's new claim 11 comprises a combination of original claims 1, 3, 7 and 8, thus redrafting claim 8 in independent form. In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claims 5 or 8, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contains subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.

Application No. 10/066,600


Summary

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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